

VENEREAL DISEASE

DECEMBER 1945

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only the advantages of a method and disregard its disadvantages. Further impartial observations and the test of time will finally bring the desired decision as to whether malaria or artificial

fever is the method of choice, but in all probability both will continue to be used.' In discussing the results of treatment by various therapeutic methods, the authors quite rightly stress the importance of the duration and extent of deterioration from the point of view of prognosis, but rather surprisingly do not pay much attention to the type of psychosis. Indeed they regard the chances of therapeutic malaria in juvenile paresis as most unfavourable; this is not altogether in accord with views held by workers in Great Britain; in fact it would appear that treatment in the latent stages, before clinical symptoms supervene, affords a very fair chance of arrest of the pathological process in these young patients. It is interesting that in the Wagner-Jauregg Clinic not more than eight rigors of malaria were given; this was followed by a course of trivalent arsenic, although in more recent years a course of pentavalent arsenic has been preferred. In Great Britain it is the usual practice to give from ten to twelve peaks of fever. The authors however have made abundantly clear the futility of over-treatment; it is a pity that this fact is not more generally appreciated, from the point of view both of economy and of the waste of time involved for both the patient and the physician. There must be a six months' rest period after treatment before the spinal fluid is examined; a persistently positive Wassermann reaction or colloidal gold test six months after treatment has no prognostic significance, but if the number of cells is not decreasing, then further treatment is certainly indicated. A full account of the treatment of tabes and its special complications is given, especially with regard to the problem offered by a tabetic with a negative fluid, but who still has symptoms (lightning pains and so forth).

Throughout this monograph a timely warning is given regarding the danger of evaluation of results over too small a series of cases and the importance of testing various procedures only on unselected patients assigned to either procedure.

The book has an excellent bibliography and is a most valuable addition to the literature of

neurosyphilis; it is moreover a worthy tribute to that great clinician, Wagner-Jauregg.

The main thesis presented by the author cannot be overstressed, and finally I would quote from the preface, if only to reinforce his argument: "In dealing with neurosyphilis for more than twenty years, it has become apparent to me that for determining the choice of therapeutic methods, and for evaluation of their success, the spinal fluid syndrome is a far better guide than the clinical symptomatology.

W. D. N.

EDITORIAL NOTES

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Crónica médica

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Journal of Experimental Medicine

Journal of venereal Disease Information

Medicina spañola

New England Journal of Medicine

Revista de la Asociacion médica argentina

Revista de Medicina tropical y Parasitologia, Bacteriologia, Clínica y Laboratio

Revista de Sanidad y Asistencia social

Revista del Instituto de Salubridad y Enfermedades tropicales.

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Urologic and Cutaneous Review

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